



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

APRIL, 2024
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APRIL MEETING : OLD TIMERS' NIGHT AT THE AWA MUSEUM, BLOOMFIELD - DON'T GO TO THE BSA!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Traditionally our April meeting is known as Old Timers' Night and we celebrate some aspect of radio history. This April we are very pleased to announce that the meeting will be held at the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield. This is a wonderful asset to have on our doorstep so if you haven't visited, this is a great opportunity and if you have visited previously, the exhibits are constantly growing so do come along for an update. The AWA is also generously waiving their normal admission fee for the evening. We will use their meeting room to have our normal update on events and get a short talk from one of the museum staff. After that we will tour the museum and the AWA promises to have several guides on hand to discuss the exhibits.

As it is Old Timers' Night we will take our annual photograph of as many RARA Past Presidents as we can muster, so if that applies to you, please come along. To add to the occasion, we are making arrangements for optional dinner beforehand at a nearby restaurant, Cheap Charlies. Dinner will be at 5:30pm, each diner will pay their own bill and the meeting at the museum will start at 7pm. It is a few minutes' drive from the restaurant to the museum. Cheap Charlies is located at 8 Elm St, Holcomb, NY, United States, 14469 and the museum is located at 6925 NY-5, Bloomfield, NY 14469.

Numbers are limited, both at the restaurant and at the museum so you will need to sign up for both. Please go to our website where you will find directions to the booking form. Hope to see you there on April 3rd. As this meeting is at a

remote location we will not be hosting an on-line session, apologies to those who normally join us remotely.



K2JD

N2EH

W2EOC



BOARDZ BUZZ

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

A RARA member was recently contacted by another ham out west to assist his long-time friend, also a RARA member, in restoring his lapsed ham radio license. Since I renewed my license in December, offered to help out.

Recently, there have been changes to the Amateur Radio License renewal procedure. A routine license renewal now involves payment of a fee, which requires an additional account and login step. Also, as of December 2023, the FCC will not accept applications and payment of fees by US mail as they have in the past.

The renewal process for the ham that I am trying to assist is ongoing. The difficulty is due to the fact that he no longer has access to his FCC registration email address, passwords, and did not set up a security question on his account that would allow me to act on his behalf as administrator. Searching for “how to” renew a license, even at the FCC site, yields references to old forms and processes that are no longer valid. I plan to outline the current renewal steps in this board buzz and recommend checking and saving this information for your next renewal.

ARRL sends a notification to its members when the member's license is set to expire. To take advantage of this service, the ARRL must have your current email address. An amateur license may be renewed within 90 days of the expiration date. Keep that as a calendar entry as a reminder. Your license is invalid and may not be used after the expiration date. However, you may renew the license within 24 months of the expiration date without retesting. Expiration dates are shown at grz.com and at the [FCC Universal Licensing System \(ULS\)](https://www.fcc.gov/ulsa). Both pages will let you search by callsign and return your license expiration date and Federal Registration Number (FRN).

If you haven't previously set up a Cores Username account with FCC, you will need to do so at [Cores Username](https://www.fcc.gov/cores). At the login page, you may create a username (email address) or enter your existing username (email address) and password. Once you are logged in, select Update Username Profile

On the update page, you may Update your Username and Contact Information and Update your Password and Security Question. Save your responses to these forms if you need to recover your account at a future date (10 years). Select a simple security question for your account. One caveat for the FCC licensing system website is that the “back” button does not seem to work as you expect. It is easy to get lost and need to restart at the login page. If you don't know the FCC Registration Number (FRN) for your callsign, you can look it up at the [FCC Universal Licensing System \(ULS\)](https://www.fcc.gov/ulsa). Select license search by callsign, enter your callsign, and then check exact matches only to prevent callsigns with the same first characters from appearing. At times, I have found the search times to be very long on this website. Record your FRN.

After logging in to your username account, Select Manage Existing FRNs, then Manage FRNs. If your FRN is not shown, you must Associate it with your

username account. On the Associate page, enter your recorded FRN, and for the Comment, enter “Initial FRN Association.” You will need to enter your FRN password, which will be different from the one for the username account. With your FRN associated with your username, Log Out of the Username account.

To proceed with your renewal, use the [FCC ULS License Manager](https://www.fcc.gov/ulsa) and enter your FRN and FRN Password. Select Renew License on the left-hand menu, then follow the prompts to pay the \$35 renewal fee. Download the payment page as a PDF and log out. After a day or two, I received an email from the FCC saying that my license had been renewed.

For the ham I am trying to assist, I searched the options at the [Help | Tech Support](#) links found on many web pages to no avail. However, I did phone the FCC at 877-480-3201, and they gave me helpful ideas of how to help the ham to restore his license

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3, 2024 - RARA Meeting 7:00 PM at the “Antique Wireless Association” 6925 NY-5, Bloomfield, NY 14469. Because this is a remote meeting there is no link for remote attendance.

THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2024 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Sunday April 21, 2024- RARA “Parks on the Air (POTA) Academy”
11:00 AM Roberts Cabin in Henrietta's Veterans Memorial Park

Saturday May 4, 2024 - Operating Event for New(ish) Hams,
10:00 AM Set up, 11:00 AM Event begins &
Elmers' Corner Hands On Academy Session
10:00 AM Event begins
Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili

Saturday Jun 8, 2024 - Finger Lakes Tour de Cure

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Finally we have hit the 400 members level but we still have a way to go to get back up to the 600 members we had at the end of our last membership year

Now is the time to renew if you have not already done so and are not a life member! Thanks to all who have already renewed.

If your membership has lapsed, please renew your membership!

You can join by clicking [here](#) or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Earn Membership Points for contributing/volunteering at Club Events.
- Redeem Membership Points for annual dues and other activities
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



To remind you all, the software package we use to manage membership is very old and missing features that we would like to see. One of its limitations is that it stores in plain text the access code you use to get to your information from our website. That means the support team (both of us!) can see the code, so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to the following new members who joined the club in the past month:

Ryan Gadhi Steven Rodinak, KC3DOW

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!





EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

By the time you read this, our three license classes will have finished, and we should have a few new hams and license upgrades as a result of the March VE session. If you missed this round of classes, please let us know that you are interested and we will put you on the list for the next sessions

New General Question Pool

Since July 1st, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition. Even though this book is almost brand new, it already is out of date – the FCC changed the data rate limitations on the HF bands to a bandwidth restriction. In general, you can find the questions in all three question pools that have been withdrawn listed on this page: <http://www.arrl.org/withdrawn-questions>.

License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician and General license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings).

OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

If you are new to the hobby, or have been away from it for a few years and don't know how to get back into the groove, or if you just want to learn something new, this event is for you!

Mark your calendars for May 4th 2024. For the fourth time, we have rented the Pathfinder shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili to present different aspects of our hobby to you. We will start the setup at 10am and will be ready for you at 11am, and we will stay until either you run out of questions or we will run out of steam. Based on experience, this is usually around 3pm.

This will also be an in-person edition of our Elmers Corner, so please come prepared with questions that might need some hands-on experience to get answered.

If there is anything specific you would like to learn, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org, and I will try to find somebody to teach that skill.

We would like to get an idea about how many people to expect, so please send an email to the same address with your name and your callsign (if you have one) so that we can plan ahead.

CALL FOR ELMERS FOR OPERATING EVENT FOR NEW(ISH) HAMS

Our annual operating event for New(ish) Hams is coming up on May 4th 2024. As in previous years, we've rented the Pathfinder shelter at Black Creek Park in Chili. We are looking for volunteers to teach and present whatever niche in ham radio is keeping them interested and busy. If you are willing to show some new hams the one thing in ham radio they really need to know about, please let us know. We will start setting up at 10am, the actual event starts at 11am and runs until we run out of steam (which is usually around 3 or 4pm). Here are some topic areas I would like to present: CW, HF, VHF/UHF, direction finding, working satellites, building antennas, soldering, APRS, digital modes, and more. If you can come up with something that is not on the list yet, please consider demonstrating that aspect of our hobby. Keep in mind that oftentimes our new hams have not yet been on the air yet, so allowing them to make their first contact at our event is important. I think we all remember how frightening it was the first time we pushed that PTT button or that CW key to actually transmit. Let's help our newest members with that step.

RaRa ACADEMY

We are working on a follow-up to our first RARA Academy about circuit simulation with LTSpice. I will post more information as soon as it is available.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RARA Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two-hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RARA Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are **good at organizing things**, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ
Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ
Elmers' Corner Coordinators

We had a great discussion, on many topics, at our March Elmers corner. We talked about how to setup a new shack and what is needed to get on the air. We had a chat on the wonders of Morse code and how learning it can get you contacts in places you wouldn't necessarily be able to get using SSB. And of course, we talked about antennas – this time with an emphasis on ham stick tuning, common mode chokes and ferrites.

Our next meeting is April 6th, so come and enjoy a lovely Saturday morning talking ham radio with us! I have an exciting QSO to share with you all, but you will only hear about it during our zoom meeting.

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer at our next zoom meeting, please email them to us at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org.

As always, bring your coffee, tea or other favorite morning beverage and join us for some Q&A on ham radio, the Zoom meeting is always the first Saturday of the month at 10am. Can't wait to see you there!

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

April 6th 10AM-12PM

May 4th is IN PERSON at the "Hands on Academy" session -
Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park in Chili

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667

Passcode:786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)

+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkCMY>

Suzanne – W2SUZ

Rich – KD2UBJ

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

LOOKING FOR A NEW BEGINNER'S MORSE CODE ELMER

To all CW Elmers, Pete Fournia, W2SKY, has stepped down as instructor for the Beginner's Morse Code Class. If you would like to take over this class and help folks get started in CW, please get in touch with me, Dave, WA2HOY, or Karl Heinz, K5KHK.

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at:

tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRLYXljc3pOUT09)

[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRLYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWWVlORjRLYXljc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

RARA POTA ACADEMY

MIKE KENNERKNECHT, N2MAK, DIRECTOR

Parks on the Air (POTA) is one of the fastest growing activities in amateur radio. Whether your new to POTA and amateur radio or already an experience activator or hunter, here's your chance to get together with other hams to learn about POTA—and most importantly, get out there, get on the air and get a park activated!

Last year, we have more than 30 people attend out first RARA POTA Academy, and we expect another great turnout this year. Join us on Sunday, April 21 at the Roberts Cabin in Henrietta's Veterans Memorial Park, located at 595 Calkins Road, Rochester, NY 14623. If you would like to help with setup, meet us there at 10:30 a.m. We'll plan to get going around 11:00 a.m.

Inside, the cabin has restrooms and a full kitchen, so feel free to bring your own lunch or a dish to share with others. As usual, we will have door prizes and RARA will provide soft drinks, some food, and all the cups, plates, napkins and silverware needed.

The Roberts Cabin has a covered patio, so we'll be able to operate from picnic tables with cover from the sun or rain. There are plenty of trees and space for antennas to go up too.

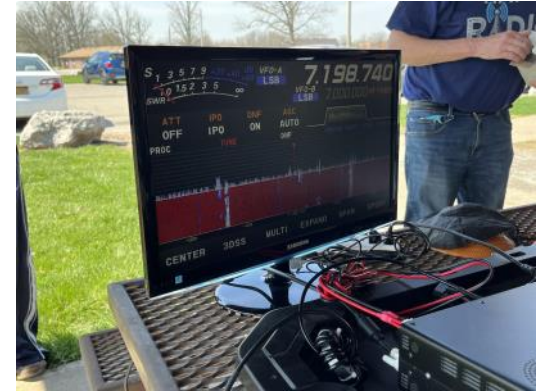
RARA will have club radios and antennas, but please feel free to bring your own equipment. This is a great opportunity to share and check out each other's gear, and maybe even learn a few tips and tricks.

Topics we plan to cover include: rules for activating a park, modes of operation (voice, CW, FT8); logging contacts; setting up a portable station (masts, throwline, mag mounts), finding/reading park maps, and more! Plus, this event occurs during the POTA Support Your Parks Spring Event, so anybody who activates the park with us and submits their log will get a special award certificate from POTA.

If you are not signed up for POTA yet, please go to their website at www.parksontheair.com and click "Help/Getting Started" at the top of the page. This is required for you to submit your logs and the process is quick and easy.

We hope to see you out there. POTA on!

Some Pictures from Last Year's POTA Event



20 METER DELTA LOOP ANTENNA

Tim Brown -- WB2PAY

Background:

This project began when I volunteered to help put up antennas for the BSA Klondike. I use 40 and 80 meter delta loops for my HF antennas at my home.

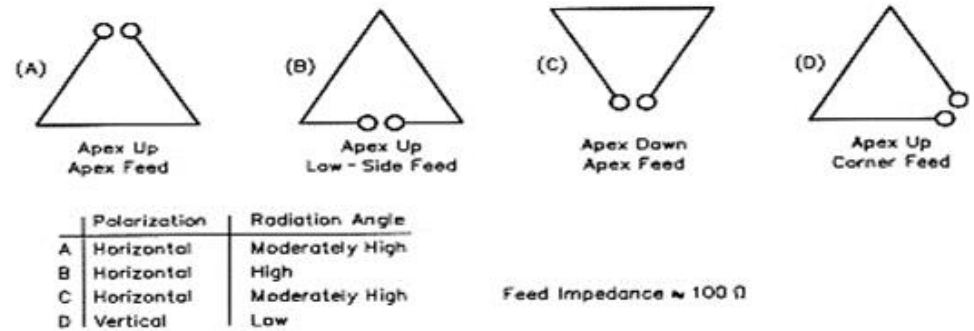
They are omni-directional and work well with low noise. I wanted to build an easy to erect 20 meter delta loop antenna. I did the calculations and measured the wire. However, before I could assemble the antenna, the Flu laid me up for a month. I missed the Klondike. :- (

On a "warm" day in February, I assembled the antenna and mounted it in my backyard. The weather changed quickly (typical Rochester) and it got too cold to test the antenna. The first week in March warmed up and I brought the coax into the shack. My AA-600 Rig Expert Analyzer was used to sweep the SWR on 20 meters. I was surprised and pleased with the results. The SWR was less than 2 to 1 across the entire band!

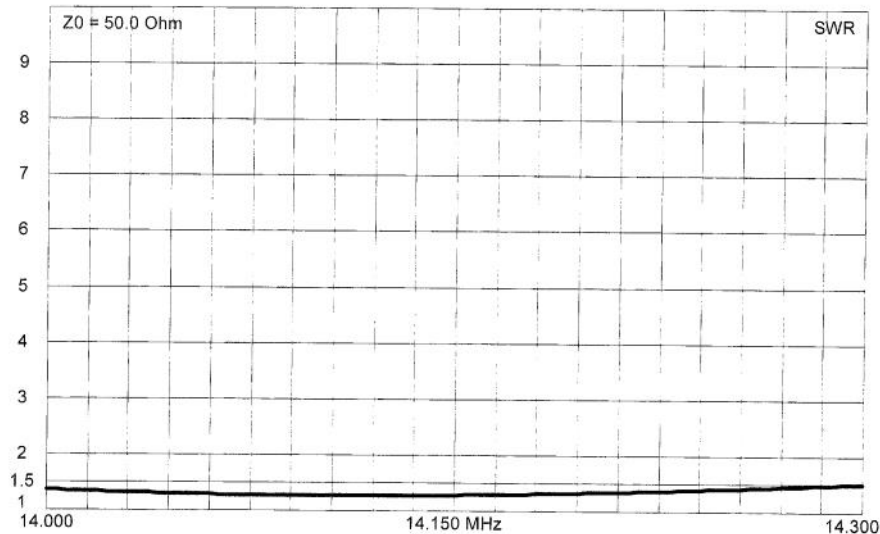
Delta Loop Description:

A delta loop fed from the top or bottom is horizontally polarized.

Fed from the corner will give vertical polarization.



Analyzer: AA-600 File: 3 Range: 14.150 \pm 0.150 MHz, 80 points Printed: 07-Mar-2024 20:41:29



Cathy, KC2UAD, Stabilizes Mast during assembly 1



Antenna Parts

Hardware & Assembly:

Antenna wire is 18ga stranded. Bright orange for visibility

Antenna length = $1005 / 14.2 \text{ MHz} = 70.9 \text{ Ft.}$

Each leg of the Delta Loop = $70.9 / 3 = 23.6 \text{ Ft.}$

18 Ft mast & Tripod feed point support (a fiber pole could be used too)

Two 3 Ft. Electric Fence Posts (from Lowes)

SO- 239 Tee connector

Two SO-239 Barrel connectors

Quarter-wave matching section of RG-59 (velocity factor = 0.78)

$(246 * 0.78) \div 14.2 \text{ MHz} = 13.5 \text{ Ft.}$ (4:1 balun could be used)

RG-8x 50 Ft. feedline from matching section to Radio Room.

One end of the wire was soldered to the shield side of a PL- 259. The other end was soldered to the center pin of another PL- 259. I marked the center pin connector with red tape in case I had to make adjustments. It would be easy to unsolder the center pin. Murphy's Law prevailed. I had to add wire to the antenna due to a measurement error. (I had the Flu and was not at my best when measuring the wire)

The two connectors are inserted into a SO-239 Tee feed point connector.

SO- 239 Barrels connect the RG-59 matching section to the Tee and the 50 Ft. RG-8x coax feed line.



SO-239 Tee and PL-259 Ant connectors

ON AIR Performance:

The antenna slopes towards the southwest and although the books say it should be omni-directional it seemed to favor the SSW direction.

The antenna exhibits very low noise due to it being so close to the ground and signals were very strong. The band was cooperating too.

Around 1200 EST, running 50 watts, I had SSB QSOs with Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina and a CW contact with West Virginia. I received good signal reports from all.

About 1745 EST, I had CW QSOs with Montana, New Mexico and Texas. Two of my QSOs wanted the details of this antenna. I will email them a copy of the RARA RAG newsletter with this article.

Summary:

I did not model this antenna to see how it would work. I am "old school" and believe in using basic calculations, getting the parts together, building the antenna and see if it works. If it doesn't, you try again.

I am a firm believer that antennas are "FM" (freaking magic)!!

I hope to show this antenna at the RARA POTA Academy in April and again at the RARA "Newish" Ham skills session in May.

I encourage Hams to build and test antennas. It is one of the 1000 facets of this hobby that is very educational and rewarding.

73s Tim



Electric Fence Post Corner Mounts—2



Mast Support for Apex of Antenna

APRIL 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

For the April public service update I want to talk about some of the fun aspects that are designed into many of our events and encourage each of you to participate. The Finger Lakes Tour de Cure, MS ROC the Ride Great Lakes Adventure, and Wilmot Breakaway Ride are fundraisers for our served agencies and as such are designed to attract members of the community to participate in the event and at the same time have a good time. Each of these events has an event midway, and we are invited to participate. Specifically for each event:

1. For Tour de Cure, The event starts with a grab and go breakfast at the event midway. Food items such as bagels, yogurt, and coffee are there of use before the start of the ride. Lunch is available in the form of sandwiches out on the ride course and as a food truck meal at the event midway. There will be a beer tent, soft drinks, and 3 bands for entertainment following the ride.

2. For MS ROC the Ride Great Lakes Adventure the event midway will be at the picnic shelter at Lakeside State Park. Similarly a grab and go breakfast will be served followed by a food truck and beer tent following the ride. Music has been provided by a DJ who interestly revealed that he is a ham!

3. For the Wilmot Breakaway Ride there was a grab and go breakfast with lunch catered by The Dinosaur BBQ. For all of the previous events we realize our public service goals by helping these served agencies in their good work to combat disease.

4. The Fairport Liftbridge Regatta is not a fundraiser but this youth organization is developing our next generation of citizens. In our public service role we provide communications that support the execution of the race, safety of the rowers, and communications for the participants and guests.

I urge you look at the public [service page at the club website](#) , sign up for one of our events and join us for the fun.

2024 RARA Public Service Events			
Event	Location	Day	Date
Total Solar Eclipse	TBD	Monday	April 8, 2024
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Finger Lakes Community College Canandaigua,	Saturday	June 8, 2024
ADK Outdoor Expo	Mendon Ponds Park	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Adventure	Lakeside Beach State Park	Saturday	August 10. 2024
Mammoth March Upstate NY	Letchwork Park	Saturday	August 10. 2024
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Light-	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	Sept 21, 2024
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 19, 2024
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State	Wednesday and Thursday	Oct. 30-31, 2024

MARCH MEETING REVIEW

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

We had a great turnout for our monthly meeting with nearly 50 present in the room plus a similar number on-line. In the first part of the meeting our tech tips section was a fascinating short presentation by Mike, N2MAK. He discussed the intriguing idea of what it would be like to operate radio on the planet Mars. We learned that the thinner atmosphere would have some interesting effects on HF propagation! It might be a while before we can test this out but it made me realize that you can't take the ionosphere for granted!

The main presentation was originally planned to be "Getting on the Air" and cover all modes and frequencies. However, when we started putting it together we realized there was too much material for one presentation and so to do it justice this meeting focused on VHF and above. Our main presenter was Tim Guyot, KB1POP who took us through the ins and outs of working simplex and how to access repeaters. We were also fortunate to have in the audience Bob O'Dell, N2BZX and Bob Shewell, N2HJD from RRRA (Rochester Repeaters Association). They made several useful comments about repeater etiquette and gave us some insights into the various constraints on repeater operation. We had a good amount of interaction from our audience and some lively discussions. The result was that our meeting ran on a little longer – the first part of the meeting was also longer than usual so we did finish a bit later than usual. Thanks to the audience for their patience!

We are now putting together plans for a Getting started on HF presentation and to avoid making it overly long we might also do an academy presentation on the same topic. If you are interested in helping with either of these sessions, please let me know.



RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint 144 MHz Spring Sprint	2 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	3 RARA Monthly Mtg at AWA 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest UKEICC 80m Contest	4 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest SARL 80m QSO Party NCCC FT4 Sprint SKCC Sprint (Europe) Weekly RTTY Test QRP Foxhunt Walk for the Bacon Contest	5 K1USN Speed Test	6 MS, MO, LA QSO Parties PODXS 070 Club PSK31 Ctest FL, GA State Parks on the Air SP DX Contest EA RTTY Contest RSGB FT4 Activity Day
7 MO QSO Party FL, GA Parks on the Air EA RTTY Contest K1USN Slow Speed Test SP DX Contest	8 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test RSGB Club 80M Contest, CW OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest Solar Eclipse QSO Party	9 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt ZL Sprint (CW and SSB)	10 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	11 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB Weekly RTTY Test NCCC FT4 Sprint	12 K1USN Speed Test QRP ARCI Spring Contest	13 DIG QSO Party, CW IG-RY Worldwide RTTY Contest SKCC Sprintathon NM, ND, GA QSO Parties Yuri Gagarin DX Contest OK/OM DX Contest SSB Africa FT4 Contest
14 DIG QSO Party, CW IG-RY Worldwide RTTY Contest SKCC Sprintathon NM, ND, GA QSO Parties Yuri Gagarin DX Contest OK/OM DX Contest SSB	15 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	16 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt 222 MHz Spring Sprint ZL Sprint (CW and SSB)	17 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest RSGB 80M Club Contest, SSB	18 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB World Amateur Radio Day NTC QSO Party NCCC Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test Walk for the Bacon Contest	19 K1USN Speed Test Holyland DX Contest	20 Drumlins Hamfest, Palmyra VCFW Holyland DX Contest Worked All China Contest ES, YU, EA-QRP(CW) Contests CQMM DX Contest ON, NE MI QSO Parties Texas State Parks OTA Dutch PACCdigi Contest QRP to the Field
21 CQMM DX Contest ON, NE MI QSO Parties EA-QRP CW Contest Texas State Parks OTA	22 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	23 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test SKCC Sprint ZL Sprint (CW and SSB)	24 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test Mini Test 40, 80 UKEICC 80m Contest 432 MHz Spring Sprint UKEICC 80M Contest	25 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB ICWC Medium Speed Test NCC FT4 Test Weely RTTY Test CW Ops Test RSGM 80M Club Contest (Data)	26 K1USN Speed Test	27 Helvetia Contest 10-10 Spring Contest, Digital UK/EI DX Contest CW FL QSO Party SP DX RTTY Contest
28 Helvetia Contest 10-10 Spring Contest, Digital UK/EI DX Contest CW FL QSO Party SP DX RTTY Contest UA1DZ Memorial Cuip BARTG Sprint 75	29 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge RSGB FT4 Contest	30 JS8 Learning Group 14.078 MHz, 9pm Phone Weekly Test ZL Sprint (CW and SSB)				

VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

Testing Location

RIT
Rochester Institute of Technology
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

Please Note: this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Also Note: The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

Exam Results for March 2024

APP TYPE	EXISTING CALL	NAME	CLASS	NEW CALL
New		Mary H Dertinger	Tech	KE2CZL
Modify	KE2CFQ	Scott J DiMora	Extra	KE2CFQ
New		Louis F Fleisher	Tech	
Modify	WA2WPI	Paul G Gerwitz	Extra	WA2WPI
New		Danny Jardine	Tech	KE2CYV
Modify	K2NAH	Henry F Kingston	Extra	K2NAH
Modify	W1KAL	Kenneth A Lewis	Extra	
New		Jason E McBride	Tech	KE2CYR
Modify	KE2AXN	Jean-Pierre Moreau	General	KE2AXN
New		Brad M Robinson	Tech	KE2CZU
Modify	KE2CBG	Justin Schmidt	General	KE2CBG
Modify	KD2DKC	Kevin J Schoenfeld	Extra	KD2DKC
New		John T Sirianno	Tech	KE2CYW
New		Alexis Smith	Tech	KE2CZD
Modify	KE2CIU	Kenneth R Wierzbowski	General	KE2CIU

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at the county EOC at 6:00 PM and are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountiemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountiemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Go to RDXA.COM for additional information



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us>. We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, www.arast.info, for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Riki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

In April we have the Solar Eclipse. KLARA will be running a special event station held at the Helmer Nature Center in Irondequoit, NY. Stop in and say hi! We are anxious to share our experiences with all who want to get on the air and learn more.

Simplex Challenge is May 4, 2024 - This is for 2 meter and 6 meter. Watch the Klara website for more information. This is always a fun activity.

Our meetings are always the 2nd wednesday. Dish to pass meal at 6pm with meeting at 7pm. All are welcome.

Don't forget our daily Monday thru Friday 75 meter HF net. Check in at 7:45am starts 8:00 am on 3.896. Always a great way to start your day.

73,
Belinda KD2BPJ

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13th. There will be VE testing in March.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch.

All hams are invited to participate.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

We were able to call a quorum and hold officer elections at our June meeting. Thanks to those members that attended either in person or via Zoom. The elected club officers are Bob Odell - N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell - N2HJD - Vice President, Jerry Powell - KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman, and Jay Stewart - W4JPS - Secretary.

Stay tuned to our web site, WWW.K2RRA.ORG for any current information. RRRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



AWA Educational Institute

2024 Hands-On Classes

Learn It, Build It, Fix It

Vacuum Tube AM Radio101	7 Saturdays Starting 4/6
Vacuum Tube Audio Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 4/7-4/9
Vacuum Tube Guitar Amplifier	7 Saturdays Starting 6/29
Vacuum Tube Radio101 Boot Camp	Sunday-Tuesday 9/29-10/1
Solid State Audio Theory	3 Saturdays Starting 10/12
Test Equipment Familiarization	Saturday 11/9

To get more information visit: www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/

AWA SHARES

MICHAEL C. MIGLIACCIO, N3HLM, VICE PRESIDENT, AWA

The monthly *AWA Shares* is about to stage its thirtieth presenter. Thanks to the video on-line streaming of Zoom becoming so popular in the past few years, people are now able to learn more about the historical and technical universe of communications. Presented topics have ranged from accounts of the bygone era of electrically assisted communications to the specific technology details of practical designs. Every third Wednesday of the month Zoom presentations bring you the adventures of early communications pioneers into the privacy and convenience of your home. Audio kits, locating power line noise, NASA communications, early amateur radio pursuits, telegraphy, broadcast history and many other topics delivered to you, in the comfort of your special space where you can sit in your comfy clothes, sip a favorite beverage, enjoying your favorite snack. I encourage you to go to the AWA website and register for the free monthly *AWA Shares* presentations.

Link: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>

20 Years Ago, April 2004

This issue of the Rag had Brad Armstrong W1YX, writing on not one, but two programs in line for the upcoming April meeting. First, we would hear Jim DeTucci N2IXD, speaking on and demonstrating the use of the Automatic Position Reporting System or APRS for short. APRS is a real-time digital communications tool that can report to a hub the actual position of, for example, any one of a large group of vehicles in a network. You can see how this would be useful for industry, law enforcement, RACES or ARES vehicles, etc. Handheld VHF/UHF radios could also be adapted to send an individual's location via an APRS network. The bonus program for the evening was Jon Dickason N2JAC, where he spoke of one of the most exciting and difficult public service events coming up, the Susquehannock Trail Pro Rally (STPR). Jon will tell us more about this popular competitive driving event held in Northern Pennsylvania and how amateur radio is critical to the success and safety of the night-time activity.

As always around this time of year local hams and also those from surrounding states eagerly wait to hear the announcement of details on this year's annual Rochester Hamfest, this year being the 70th anniversary year. Always telling it well is Harold Smith K2HC, the Rochester Hamfest General Chairman for many of those seventy years. This year's three-day event, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, is expected to bring in over 5,000 people, Harold wrote.

Readers found a nice article by long term RARA supporter Peter Fournia, W2SKY. This writing found Peter announcing and detailing a new service called the Rochester ARES/Red Cross Packet Node. Peter wrote that the new Packet Node, operating out of Penfield NY, was tested on February 27th and communications was achieved with fifteen other ARES/RACES affiliations in central New York state. The mission of this VHF/UHF packet network is to serve ARES, the Red Cross and to be available to RACES as well. The Node was reported to use FlexNet Software. Those designing, building and installing the equipment include Peter W2SKY, Jon N2JAC and Blair WB2QKO.

RARA President George Plattater AA2FO, wrote in his column a very appropriate "thank you" directed to Dick Goslee (sk) K2VCZ (KG2I), where Dick was cited for his years of service in publishing the annual RARA Directory of hams in a large population area around Rochester and Monroe County. Those paper directories are gone now, replaced by websites and cell phone apps, but in their day every ham used them almost daily to find data we now acquire with a few key clicks. Dick can also be remembered as the administrator of RARA's annual scholarship program and for being RARA's Membership Chairman for many years.

Now here's something worth noting again as it's almost forgotten history. Remember the year 2004? It was a year of governmental inflation, budget cuts and alarm causing gasoline prices. In an effort to alleviate the financial hurt, all US Government departments were directed to make incentives help citizens

under their control, including the FCC. It was this writer, back then, who had to search deeply to find out what the FCC decided to do in order to help hams throughout the country. Their decision, kept very quiet, was to allow amateurs to sell advertising on their QSO's. Five minutes of advertising was allowed every half-hour. The bands would sound something like this: "Thanks for the call OM, but before I tell you my name, QTH and signal report, let me take time out for a word from M&N's. These sugar-coated chocolate candies give a burst of energy to the tired contester to keep them working into the wee hours of the night. Just pop an M&N and watch your scores soar to new heights, and now back to our QSO, the name here is Ed and..."

Readers found an article by Keith Freeberg (sk) N2BEL, a very active supporter of RARA's public service events, where he spoke of the Ontario Shore Marathon. This popular event proved to be a good training ground for newbie hams stationed at various check points within Hamlin Beach Park or from the ease and comfort of their mobile radios further out on the Lake Ontario Parkway. In this publication Keith also penned an article on the very large and well planned 100 mile Bike Tour for the Multiple Sclerosis Society planned for August 21st and 22nd. We also heard from Ray Pickens WA2MYG, keeping readers up to date on RARA's Volunteer Examiners (VE) activities. Ray told of new exam schedules on a four week rotational basis and their testing facility at Kodak's Building 28, aka Theater on the Ridge. In this Rag the Editor saw fit to print one and one-half pages devoted to an article provided by the ARRL going into much detail on the previously reported proposed Rule Making to allow Broadband Over Power Lines, or BPL. For those needing hard data on the many valid issues, this was good reading. In the end, BPL was defeated as a dangerous source of RF interference to all users of HF radio communications and quietly faded into history as a bad idea,

With regret it was reported that David Vogt ex-WB2BGJ was reported a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could get a free thirty-foot tower for taking down and hauling from Dick Fish (sk) W2OWF. There were only two commercial advertisers in this issue, but the choice was easy. With some twenty years off affiliation, we need to recognize Glenwood Sales of Hague Street, city, seller of new and used electronic parts, for their continuing support of RARA.



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56

APRIL 2004

NO. 8

HAMFEST, AWA MEET, BPL, and RaRa ANNUAL MEETING

DETAILS INSIDE

70 AND COUNTING

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

Get ready with a blank piece of paper: What should your "parts needed" list look like; what new ham gear is a "must"? And when is the Emergency Communications presentation, the ARES Meeting or the Log-Book-of-the-World session? Then again, you might check to see if you have enough QSL cards to bring for DXCC, WAS or VUCC.

CONTINUED 70 AND COUNTING PAGE 4

Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) Brad Armstrong W1YX

The attendance at the SKYWARN Spotter Training Session, our March program, was outstanding! Over 80 club members were there to take advantage of this opportunity to learn another way in which amateur radio can serve the public interest. Judy Levan, N2TEZ, has newly added the ability to show excellent

CONTINUED APRS PAGE 11

RaRa

MEETING

APRIL 2, 2004

8:00 PM

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA R**

APRS

(Automatic Position Reporting System)

Presented by

Jim DeTucci N2IXD

Rochester Hamfest June 4-5-6

Harold Smith, K2HC, General Chairman

The 70th annual Rochester Hamfest combined with the Atlantic Division Convention is almost here. It will be held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5-6.

Your help is needed: To make this years event a success, we need the help of each and every RaRa member.

Your assignment: Gather your copies of QST, CQ and any other amateur publications you possess. Sit down at your computer. Scan the pages of the magazines. Go to the web sites of the advertisers. Secure their email address. Send each and every one of those advertisers your own personal message. Invite them to come to Rochester to exhibit and sell their wares.

You can tell them that our event is attended by more than 5,000 people who are ready to buy. You can also tell them we have a special rate of \$69 at a full service first class hotel, the Holiday Inn Rochester South.

You can tell them you wish to see and feel their product. Tell them their advertisements are great but you need to personally know what may be special about their offerings. Tell them to call the Hamfest business office during regular east coast business hours for additional information. The office phone is 585-424-7184. They can also visit the Hamfest web site, www.rochesterhamfest.org. the site is updated daily..

There are hamfests scheduled virtually every weekend around the nation throughout the year. Most are of the half-day flea market variety. Rochester area amateurs are fortunate

CONTINUED HAMFEST PAGE 3

RaRa RAG 1

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

40 Years Ago, April 1984

The April RARA meeting during this time period was typically reserved as Old Timer's Night, and this April gathering was no exception. Also typical was to have RARA's long time historian, Bruce Kelley (sk) W2ICE as the guest speaker, much to the delight of eager attendees. Bruce wrote his own agenda that was published in this issue with the front cover of the Rag adorned with a photograph of the Radio Club of Rochester's 1926 ham station. callsign 8PZ.

Your Rag Editor and long time RARA supporter, Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, published ARRL documents covering the hot topic of the FCC's newly revealed Volunteer Examiner (VE) program. This was a major breakthrough for Radio Amateurs, mostly unknown by today's recently licensed hams, as the laws removed the need to travel to the Buffalo FCC office to take General Class and higher exams. The FCC officials were replaced by a cadre' of appointed Volunteer Examiners that we take for granted today. That, dear readers, was a big deal and a big win-win for amateurs and the FCC.

The pages of our RARA Rag rarely saw writings by the club's attorney Sherwood Snyder (sk) W2KFU, but this time Sherwood took the effort to report on an interesting case where a repeater group sued a Jammer and won a financial judgment. Nice!

A word about Sherwood. As an active ham and an Attorney, Sherwood actively supported local clubs with their legal needs on a pro-bono basis. He is known to have written Club By-laws for RARA, the Rochester VHF Group, the RDXA, the AWA and others. And, he was just a nice soft spoken gentleman well liked by all.

In this issue local Amateur Steve Sykes KA2KGM (KD2OM) was reported to have been appointed an official ARRL AIRS station, that being an *Amateur Interference Reporting Station*. AIRS is no longer with us, but Steve Sykes is, and he continues similar monitoring and reporting activity from his Victor NY home, using very sophisticated computer operated receivers.

A report from AMSAT reveals the successful launch of UoSAT-2 carrying Amateur Radio VHF downlinks. Unfortunately the ground command stations could not activate the ham radio links.

With regret it was reported that Gene Schwartz WB2CNQ, was reported a Silent key. From the Want Ads you could buy a Drake C Line from Don Taylor, KB2CU. Harvey's Ham (KB2LB) a ham equipment dealer in Caledonia, NY, featuring Ten-Tec and Dentron, was a long-time advertiser.



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Rochester, N.Y.

APRIL 1984

Volume 36 No. 8



The Club's station at the 1926 exposition. Two complete stations were in operation.

RaRa TO CELEBRATE ROCHESTER'S CENTENNIAL

at Old Timers Nite, April 6th

by Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, Club Historian

The annual RaRa Old Timers Night with Bruce Kelley, Club Historian, will be held at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue on Friday, April 6th at 8 p.m.

The club historian will show historical slides of Rochester covering the period between 1922 and 1934:

- early Rochester streets
- amateur activity including the club's publicized 1926 air-to-ground demonstration
- old time entertainment and movie theaters
- Rochester's first broadcast stations... development of WHAM from a 50 watt to 50 kw.
- Rochester's first police radio station
- early amateur magazines and radio stores.

Old time phonograph records will accompany the presentation.

The ground-to-air demonstration took place in October, 1926, during the Rochester Exposition when local amateurs had an exhibit and working station at old Convention Hall. Ducky Dengler (W2LK) and Gene Handler (W2LF), the club's president, volunteered to handle the demonstration of talking between a plane and the exposition booth.

A picture shows Gene in leather helmet in an open cockpit holding a single-button mike. The event was headlined in the *Times-Union* and stated communication was successful at an altitude of 3000 feet!

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APRIL 15, 2024

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

APRIL MEETING IS IN PERSON ONLY AT THE
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